



County of Los Angeles

January 7, 2025

Dawyn R. Harrison
County Counsel

Board of Supervisors

Hilda L. Solis
Supervisor, First District

Holly Mitchell
Supervisor, Second District

Lindsey P. Horvath
Supervisor, Third District

Janice Hahn
Supervisor, Fourth District

Kathryn Barger
Supervisor, Fifth District

TO: EDWARD YEN
Executive Officer
Board of Supervisors

Attention: Agenda Preparation

FROM: ADRIENNE M. BYERS
Litigation Cost Manager

RE: **Item for the Board of Supervisors' Agenda
County Claims Board Recommendation
Samuel Lima-Medina, et al. v. County of Los Angeles
Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23STCV00538**



Attached is the Agenda entry for the Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation regarding the above-referenced matter. Also attached are the Case Summary and Summary Corrective Action Plan to be made available to the public.

It is requested that this recommendation, Case Summary, and Summary Corrective Action Plan be placed on the Board of Supervisors' agenda.

AMB:lzs

Attachments

Board Agenda

MISCELLANEOUS COMMUNICATIONS

Los Angeles County Claims Board's recommendation: Authorize settlement of the matter entitled Samuel Lima-Medina, et al. v. County of Los Angeles, Los Angeles Superior Court Case No. 23STCV00538, in the amount of \$375,000, and instruct the Auditor-Controller to draw a warrant to implement this settlement from the Department of Health Services' budget.

This medical malpractice lawsuit arises from the death of a patient who fell while hospitalized at Los Angeles General Medical Center.

CASE SUMMARY

INFORMATION ON PROPOSED SETTLEMENT OF LITIGATION

CASE NAME	Samuel Lima-Medina, et al. vs. County of Los Angeles
CASE NUMBER	23STCV00538
COURT	Los Angeles Superior Court
DATE FILED	January 10, 2023
COUNTY DEPARTMENT	Department of Health Services
PROPOSED SETTLEMENT AMOUNT	\$ 375,000
ATTORNEY FOR PLAINTIFF	Sharona Eslamboly-Hakim, Esq. Law Offices of Sharona Eslamboly Hakim
COUNTY COUNSEL ATTORNEY	GEORGINA GLAVIANO Deputy County Counsel Health Services Division DAVID WEISS, ESQ. Law Offices of David Weiss
NATURE OF CASE	<p>This is a lawsuit alleging medical negligence/wrongful death, general negligence, and survival action arising out of the injury and subsequent death of Elida Mendez-Ibarra at Los Angeles General Medical Center. Ms. Mendez-Ibarra died on February 1, 2022, after suffering a fall from her bed on January 12, 2022. Plaintiff is decedent's husband, Samuel Lima-Medina, individually, and as the successor-in-interest to the Estate of Elida Mendez-Ibarra.</p> <p>Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of this matter is warranted.</p>
PAID ATTORNEY FEES, TO DATE	\$ 23,725
PAID COSTS, TO DATE	\$ 265



Summary Corrective Action Plan

The intent of this form is to assist departments in writing a corrective action plan summary for the settlement documents developed for the Board of Supervisors and/or the County of Los Angeles Claims Board. The summary should be a specific overview of the claims/lawsuits' identified root causes and corrective actions (status, time frame, and responsible party). This summary does not replace the Corrective Action Plan form. If there is a question related to confidentiality, please consult County Counsel.

Date of incident/event:	January 12, 2022
Briefly provide a description of the incident/event:	This is a lawsuit alleging medical negligence/wrongful death, general negligence, and survival action arising out of the injury and subsequent death of E.M.-I. at Los Angeles General Medical Center. E.M.-I. died on February 1, 2022 after suffering a fall from her bed on January 12, 2022. Plaintiff is decedent's husband, S.L.-M., individually, and as the successor-in-interest to the Estate of E.M.-I. Due to the risks and uncertainties of litigation, a full and final settlement of this matter is warranted.

1. Briefly describe the **root cause(s)** of the claim/lawsuit:


Brain injury and death resulting from a fall while hospitalized.


2. Briefly describe recommended corrective actions:
(Include each corrective action, due date, responsible party, and any disciplinary actions if appropriate)

- All appropriate personnel actions were taken.
- Staff were educated on the use of pressure relieving mattresses.
- Staff were educated on patient fall risks, and post-fall assessments and treatment.
- DHS is reviewing data related to falls that result in harm.
- The triage processes for STAT CT requests were evaluated.
- A protocol was developed related to timing of CT scans.
- DHS developed imaging exam prioritization and turn-around-time goals.


3. Are the corrective actions addressing department-wide system issues?

- Yes – The corrective actions address department-wide system issues.
- No – The corrective actions are only applicable to the affected parties.

Name: (Risk Management Coordinator) Arun Patel, MD, JD	
Signature: 	Date: 11/13/2024

Name: (Department Head) Christina Ghaly, MD	
Signature: 	Date: 11/18/2024

Chief Executive Office Risk Management Inspector General USE ONLY
Are the corrective actions applicable to other departments within the County?
<input type="checkbox"/> Yes, the corrective actions potentially have County-wide applicability.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No, the corrective actions are applicable only to this department.

Name: (Risk Management Inspector General) Betty Karmirlian, Acting Risk Management Inspector General	
Signature: 	Date: 11/19/2024